

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

JAMES K. KIST, individually and as the)
representative of a class of similarly-situated)
persons,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
No.)
)
v.)
)
TSYS MERCHANT SOLUTIONS, LLC)
f/k/a FIRST NATIONAL MERCHANT)
SOLUTIONS, LLC, FIRST NATIONAL)
BANK OF OMAHA, INC., TOTAL)
SYSTEM SERVICES, INC. and JOHN)
DOES 1-10,)

Defendants.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, JAMES K. KIST (“Plaintiff”), brings this action on behalf of himself and all other persons similarly situated, through his attorneys, and except as to those allegations pertaining to Plaintiff or his attorneys, which allegations are based upon personal knowledge, alleges the following upon information and belief against Defendants, TSYS MERCHANT SOLUTIONS, LLC f/k/a FIRST NATIONAL MERCHANT SOLUTIONS, LLC, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, INC., TOTAL SYSTEM SERVICES, INC. and JOHN DOES 1-10 (“Defendants”).

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This case challenges Defendants' practice of sending unsolicited facsimiles.
2. The federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 USC § 227, prohibits a person or entity from faxing or having an agent fax advertisements without the recipient's prior

express invitation or permission. The TCPA provides a private right of action and provides statutory damages of \$500 per violation.

3. Unsolicited faxes damage their recipients. A junk fax recipient loses the use of its fax machine, paper, and ink toner. An unsolicited fax wastes the recipient's valuable time that would have been spent on something else. A junk fax interrupts the recipient's privacy. Unsolicited faxes prevent fax machines from receiving authorized faxes, prevent their use for authorized outgoing faxes, cause undue wear and tear on the recipients' fax machines, and require additional labor to attempt to discern the source and purpose of the unsolicited message.

4. On behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff brings this case as a class action asserting claims against Defendants under the TCPA.

5. Plaintiff seeks an award of statutory damages for each violation of the TCPA and for injunctive relief.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 47 U.S.C. § 227.

7. Venue is proper in the Northern District of Ohio because Defendants committed a statutory tort within this district, a significant portion of the events took place here.

PARTIES

8. Plaintiff is an Ohio resident who resides within this judicial district.

9. On information and belief, Defendant, TSYS MERCHANT SOLUTIONS, LLC f/k/a FIRST NATIONAL MERCHANT SOLUTIONS, LLC ("TSYS"), is a Delaware limited liability company.

10. On information and belief, Defendant, TOTAL SYSTEM SERVICES, INC. is a Georgia corporation with its principal place of business in Columbus, Georgia.

11 On information and belief, Defendant, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, INC. ("FNBO"), is a subsidiary of First National Bank of Nebraska, a privately owned banking company located in Omaha, Nebraska.

12. John Does 1-10 will be identified through discovery, but are not presently known.

FACTS

13. On or about November 29, 2010, Defendants transmitted by telephone facsimile machine an unsolicited fax to Plaintiff. A copy of the facsimile is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

14. Defendants created or made Exhibit A which Defendants knew or should have known is a good or product which Defendants intended to and did in fact distribute to Plaintiff and the other members of the class.

15. Exhibit A is part of Defendants' work or operations to market Defendants' goods or services which were performed by Defendants and on behalf of Defendants. Therefore, Exhibit A constitutes material furnished in connection with Defendants' work or operations.

16. Plaintiff had not invited or given permission to Defendants to send the faxes.

17. On information and belief, Defendants faxed the same and similar unsolicited facsimiles to Plaintiff and more than 39 other recipients without first receiving the recipients' express permission or invitation.

18. There is no reasonable means for Plaintiff (or any other class member) to avoid receiving unauthorized faxes. Fax machines are left on and ready to receive the urgent communications their owners desire to receive.

19. Defendants' facsimiles did not display a proper opt-out notice as required by 64 C.F.R. 1200.

TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 47 U.S.C. § 227

20. In accordance with FRCP 23, Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, on behalf of the following class of persons:

All persons who (1) on or after four years prior to the filing of this action, (2) were sent telephone facsimile messages of material advertising the commercial availability of any property, goods, or services by or on behalf of Defendants, (3) from whom Defendants did not obtain prior express permission or invitation to send those faxes, (4) with whom Defendants did not have an established business relationship, and (5) did not display a proper opt-out notice.

Excluded from the Class are the Defendants, their employees, agents and members of the Judiciary.

21. Commonality [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 (A) (2)]: Common questions of law and fact apply to the claims of all class members. Common material questions of fact and law include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Whether the Defendants sent unsolicited fax advertisements;
- b) Whether the Defendants' faxes advertised the commercial availability of property, goods, or services;
- c) The manner and method the Defendants used to compile or obtain the list of fax numbers to which it sent Exhibit "A" and other unsolicited faxed advertisements;
- d) Whether the Defendants faxed advertisements without first obtaining the recipient's prior permission or invitation;

- e) Whether the Defendants sent the faxed advertisements knowingly;
- f) Whether the Defendants violated the provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227;
- g) Whether the Defendants should be enjoined from faxing advertisements in the future;
- h) Whether the Plaintiff and the other members of the class are entitled to statutory damages; and
- i) Whether the Court should award treble damages.

22. Typicality [Fed R. Civ. P. 23 (A) (3)]: The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of all class members. The Plaintiff received a fax sent on behalf of the Defendants advertising goods and services of the Defendants during the Class Period. The Plaintiff is making the same claims and seeking the same relief for itself and all class members based upon the federal statute. The Defendants have acted the same or in a similar manner with respect to the Plaintiff and all the class members.

23. Fair and Adequate Representation [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 (A) (4)]: The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the class. It is interested in this matter, has no conflicts and has retained experienced class counsel to represent the class.

24. Need for Consistent Standards and Practical Effect of Adjudication [Fed R. Civ. P. 23 (B) (1)]: Class certification is appropriate because the prosecution of individual actions by class members would: a) create the risk of inconsistent adjudications that could establish incompatible standards of conduct for the Defendants, and/or b) as a practical matter, adjudication of the Plaintiff's claims will be dispositive of the interests of class members who are not parties.

25. Common Conduct [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 (B) (2)]: Class certification is also appropriate because the Defendants have acted and refused to act in the same or similar manner with respect to all class members thereby making injunctive and declaratory relief appropriate. The Plaintiff demands such relief as authorized by 47 U.S.C. §227.

26. Predominance and Superiority [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 (B) (3)]: Common questions of law and fact predominate and a class action is superior to other methods of adjudication:

- a) Proof of the claims of the Plaintiff will also prove the claims of the class without the need for separate or individualized proceedings;
- b) Evidence regarding defenses or any exceptions to liability that the Defendants may assert and prove will come from the Defendants' records and will not require individualized or separate inquiries or proceedings;
- c) The Defendants have acted and are continuing to act pursuant to common policies or practices in the same or similar manner with respect to all class members;
- d) The amount likely to be recovered by individual class members does not support protested individual litigation. A class action will permit a large number of relatively small claims involving virtually identical facts and legal issues to be resolved efficiently in one (1) proceeding based upon common proofs;
- e) This case is inherently managed as a class action in that:
 - (i) The Defendants identified persons or entities to receive the fax transmissions and it is believed that the Defendants' computer and business records will enable the Plaintiff to readily identify class members and establish liability and damages;

- (ii) Liability and damages can be established for the Plaintiff and the class with the same common proofs;
- (iii) Statutory damages are provided for in the statute and are the same for all class members and can be calculated in the same or a similar manner;
- (iv) A class action will result in an orderly and expeditious administration of claims and it will foster economics of time, effort and expense;
- (v) A class action will contribute to uniformity of decisions concerning the Defendants' practices; and
- (vi) As a practical matter, the claims of the class are likely to go unaddressed absent class certification.

27. The TCPA makes unlawful the "use of any telephone facsimile machine, computer or other device to send an unsolicited advertisement to a telephone facsimile machine..." 47 U.S.C. § 227.

28. The TCPA defines "unsolicited advertisement" as "any material advertising the commercial availability or quality of any property, goods, or services which is transmitted to any person without that person's express invitation or permission." 47 U.S.C. § 227 (a) (4).

29. The TCPA provides:

"3. Private right of action. A person may, if otherwise permitted by the laws or rules of court of a state, bring in an appropriate court of that state:

- (A) An action based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation;
- (B) An action to recover actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation, whichever is greater, or

(C) Both such actions."

30. The TCPA is a strict liability statute, so the Defendants are liable to the Plaintiff and the other class members even if its actions were only negligent.

31. The Defendants knew or should have known that a) the Plaintiff and the other class members had not given express invitation or permission for the Defendants or anybody else to fax advertisements about the Defendants' goods or services; b) the Plaintiff and the other class members did not have an established business relationship; and c) Defendants transmitted an advertisement.

32. The Defendants' actions caused damages to the Plaintiff and the other class members. Receiving the Defendants' junk faxes caused the recipients to lose paper and toner consumed in the printing of the Defendants' faxes. Moreover, the Defendants' faxes used the Plaintiff's fax machine. The Defendants' faxes cost the Plaintiff time, as the Plaintiff and its employees wasted their time receiving, reviewing and routing the Defendants' illegal faxes. That time otherwise would have been spent on the Plaintiff's business activities. The Defendants' faxes unlawfully interrupted the Plaintiff's and other class members' privacy interests in being left alone. Finally, the injury and property damage sustained by Plaintiff and the other class members from the sending of Defendants' advertisements occurred outside of Defendants' premises.

33. The Defendants violated 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq., by transmitting advertisements to the Plaintiff and the other members of the class without obtaining their prior express permission or invitation.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JAMES K. KIST, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment in his favor and against Defendants, TSY'S MERCHANT

SOLUTIONS, LLC f/k/a FIRST NATIONAL MERCHANT SOLUTIONS, LLC, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, INC., TOTAL SYSTEM SERVICES, INC. and JOHN DOES 1-10, jointly and severally, as follows:

- A. That the Court adjudge and decree that the present case may be properly maintained as a class action, appoint the Plaintiff as the representative of the class and appoint the Plaintiff's counsel as counsel for the class;
- B. That the Court award actual monetary loss from such violations or the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each violation, whichever is greater;
- C. That Court enjoin the Defendants from additional violations; and
- D. That the Court award costs and such further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES K. KIST, individually and as the representative of a class of similarly-situated persons

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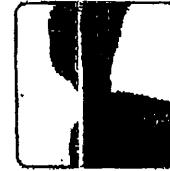
EXHIBIT A



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